

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 04773 01 OF 02 221805Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-08 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /082 W
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R 221755Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1835
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 04773

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, EC, XA
SUBJECT: EC AFRICA EXPERTS MEETING

SUMMARY: EC EXPERTS MARCH 18 DISCUSSED UGANDA AND
NAMIBIA BUT DEVOTED MOST OF THE MEETING TO A BRITISH
DRAFT STUDY OF SOUTH AFRICA. THE GROUP REACHED CONSENSUS
ON THE FIRST, ANALYTICAL SECTION OF THE PAPER BUT FAILED
TO FIND AGREEMENT ON THE SECOND SECTION WHICH CONCERNS
POLICY OPTIONS. THE EXPERTS WILL SEEK A CLEARER MANDATE
FROM POLITICAL DIRECTORS BEFORE AGAIN DISCUSSING POSSIBLE
JOINT EC ACTIONS TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA. END SUMMARY

1. EC AFRICA EXPERTS MET IN LONDON MARCH 18. THE AGREED
AGENDA CONCERNED SOUTH AFRICAN QUESTIONS ONLY, BUT FCO
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PAGE 02 LONDON 04773 01 OF 02 221805Z

DEPARTMENT HEAD MARTIN REID SAID THE TALKS BEGAN WITH A
DISCUSSION OF TWO OTHER ITEMS. FIRST, ON UGANDA, THE
GERMAN AND FRENCH REPRESENTATIVES CAUTIONED THEIR
COLLEAGUES THAT AMIN IS IN A POTENTIALLY VIOLENT AND UN-
STABLE MOOD. BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF WEST
EUROPEAN CITIZENS RESIDENT IN UGANDA, THEY WARNED THAT
WESTERN GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO CROWD AMIN.

SECOND, ON NAMIBIA, THE BRITISH BRIEFED THE GROUP ON CURRENT UN TACTICS AND THE U.S. PROPOSAL FOR A FIVE-POWER CONTACT GROUP MADE UP OF WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. REID SAID THE BRIEFING SIGNALLED TO THE SIX EC GOVERNMENTS NOT ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL THAT EC INITIATIVES ON NAMIBIA HAD FOR THE MOMENT BEEN PUT ASIDE. THE EXPERTS AGREED NONETHELESS THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPLY TO THE EC DEMARCHE ON NAMIBIA WAS "TOO COMPLACENT" AND THAT "SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE."

2. THERE FOLLOWED AN "EXHAUSTIVE" DISCUSSION BY THE

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PAGE 01 LONDON 04773 02 OF 02 221811Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 04773

GROUP OF A BRITISH DRAFT PAPER ON SOUTH AFRICA. THE PAPER IS IN TWO PARTS: AN APPRAISAL OF THE INTERNAL, EXTERNAL, AND ECONOMIC SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND A DISCUSSION OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. THE FIRST SECTION, WHICH EMPHASIZED THE ABILITY OF THE SOUTH

AFRICANS TO MAINTAIN THE STRUCTURE OF THEIR SOCIETY AND STAND ALONE INTERNATIONALLY IF NEED BE, WAS AGREED BY THE EXPERTS. THE SECOND SECTION, WHICH DISCUSSED A SERIES OF OPTIONS FOR EC ACTION, FAILED TO WIN CONSENSUS. REID SUGGESTED THE EXPERTS WERE NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE EC POLICY TOWARDS PRETORIA--PARTICULARLY ECONOMIC MEASURES--WHICH WOULD INEVITABLY AFFECT BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN MEMBERS AND SOUTH AFRICA.
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PAGE 02 LONDON 04773 02 OF 02 221811Z

3. REID SAID THE RESULTS OF THESE DELIBERATIONS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO POLITICAL DIRECTORS. THE EXPERTS WILL NEED A CLEARER MANDATE FROM THE POLITICAL LEVEL IF THEY ARE TO PROCEED WITH A REALISTIC STUDY OF THE SECOND SECTION. REID SAID THE DISCUSSIONS WERE NEVERTHELESS HELPFUL BECAUSE OF THE "EDUCATIONAL EFFECT" ON SEVERAL EC MEMBERS. A GREATER AWARENESS OF THE COMPLEXITIES INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA MAY AT LEAST FACILITATE EC COORDINATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, HE SAID.

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